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EXAMINER

MALEKZADEH, SEYED MASOUD

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1791

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

08/04/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 6-12 are pending.

Claims 1-5 are cancelled.

In view of the arguments, filed on 07/21/2008, following rejections are maintained for the reason of records as given in the previous office action, mailed on 11/28/2007.

- Rejection of claims 6-7 and 9-12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vuillaume et al (US 2002/0157766) in view of Boulanger et al (US 5,405,650)
- Rejection of claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vuillaume et al ('766) in view of Boulanger et al ('650) and further in view of Vuillaume et al (US 2002/0168910)

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed on 07/21/2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argue "that independent claims 6 and 12 each recite moisture-expressing means downstream in the direction in which the web moves of the consolidation device and an applicator downstream of the moisture expressing means. This limitation is not met by Vuillaume ('766)." Furthermore, applicants argue "the applicator unit (9) (of Vuillaume et al '766) is located upstream of the suction unit (25) "

This is not found persuasive because, as been presented in the previous office action, Vuillaume ('766) in view of Boulanger et al ('650) teach all the structural limitations of a machine for the continuous production of a non-woven product, as claimed in claims 6-7 and 9-12. Applicant's attention is drawn to the point that it has been generally recognized to shift the location of the parts when the operation of the device is not otherwise changed. (See *In re Japikse*, 86 USPQ 70; *In re Gazda*, 104 USPQ 400)

Combined teachings of Vuillaume ('766) in view of Boulanger et al ('650) clearly teach an apparatus for producing a non-woven webs comprising a spun-bond tower (1) for depositing filaments (3) as a web, a conveyor, water jets (14, 15, and 16) as a consolidation device for consolidating the web, a suction unit (25) as a moisture-expressing mean, and an applicator unit (9) for applying of a second sheet (V2) product into the web. As cited above, it is within the level of ordinary skill in the art to locate the applicator unit downstream of the moisture-expressing means since it has been generally recognized to shift the location of the parts when the operation of the device is not otherwise changed. Hence, the combination of prior arts teaches all the structural limitations and therefore, claims 6-12 maintained rejected.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Seyed Masoud Malekzadeh whose

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telephone number is 571-272-6215. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday – Friday at 8:30 am – 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven P. Griffin, can be reached on (571) 272-1189. The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published application may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/S. M. M./

Examiner, Art Unit 1791

/Steven P. Griffin/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1791